

**MINUTES**  
**MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**  
**April 23, 2015**  
**9:10 a.m., MHS Auditorium**  
**Helena, Montana**

**Montana Historical Society Board of Trustees members present:** Crystal Wong Shors, Bob Brown, Kent Kleinkopf, Tom Nygard, Jude Sheppard, Janene Caywood, Shirley Groff, Jim Court, Jim Utterback, George Dennison, Steve Lozar, Ed Jasmin, Thomas Minckler, and Cliff Edwards

**Excused Board members were:** Jim Murry

**Staff present:** MHS Director Bruce Whittenberg; MHS Development Officer, Susan Near; MHS Membership, Rebecca Baumann; MHS PR/Media Manager, Tom Cook; MHS SHPO Manager, Mark Baumler; MHS John Boughton, National Register Coordinator; MHS Publications Manager, Molly Holz; MHS Centralized Services Administrator, Denise King; MHS Outreach & Interpretation Manager, Kirby Lambert; MHS Museum Curator, Jennifer Bottomly-O'looney; Rowena Harrington, MHS Assistant Registrar; MHS Research Center Manager, Molly Kruckenberg

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Crystal Wong Shors called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. Rebecca took roll call.

Molly Kruckenberg introduced Jennifer Graves as the new Government Records Archivist.

**REVIEW OF MINUTES**

**Ed Jasmin moved approval of the October 23, 2014 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Shirley Groff and carried unanimously.**

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Crystal Wong Shors**

President Shors commented on the recent Legislative updates and thanked everyone who worked on the 150<sup>th</sup> MHS celebration in the Rotunda on February 2, 2015. She also wanted to note the exceptional job that staff is doing in every area and in moving MHS forward through the Session and beyond. Crystal also talked about the excitement building around the upcoming Chinese exhibit on May 14, 2015 and thanked staff for what will be a wonderful exhibit.

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Bruce Whittenberg**

Bruce covered some recent highlights, noting the arrival of the original founding document creating the Montana Historical Society February 2, 1865, and signed by Sidney Edgerton. Bruce also announced the arrival of the leather bound copy of the new *Montana's Charlie Russell: Art in the Collection of the Montana Historical Society* (CMR book) press book. The selected numbered copies sell for \$350. Acquisition of the Crow Collection is now completed and paid for - \$209,000. The overage funds may be used for future projects with the Big Horn College. He also noted that the Legislative audit has been completed with no further recommendations. He discussed the upcoming MHS Richest Hills Conference, a national educational conference for two weeks this July. Publications recently won Western Writers of America – Spur Award for Best Non-fiction written by Richard Etulain, *Calamity Jane: Life and Legends* (Summer 2014). The second award, Western Heritage Award presented by the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum went to Jennifer Bottomly-O'looney & Kirby Lambert for Outstanding Art Book (based on the CMR book). Bruce also talked about the upcoming exhibit opening -- *Our Forgotten Pioneers: The Chinese in Montana* and to anticipate a packed house at MHS and the CMR Symposium this May, as well as the 2015 History Conference, entitled *Hit the Trail to Bozeman* in September.

Bruce also updated the Trustees on the MHS Legislative watch list, noting that we started with 193 bills on the list to watch. Bruce also talked about the digital strategies and content and contact statistics. (See attached documentation.) He also asked that the Trustees continue to pursue lead gifts, be involved in local community advocacy, and begin to talk about future building needs.

### **Marketing and Development – Susan Near**

Susan noted that MHS has received close to 200 pledges & donations for the Montana Heritage Center. In addition to gifts from Northwestern Energy and CTA, we continue to receive numerous donations from our members. Members are very interested in this project. Susan gave an update on the Becky Eiker Foundation project bringing the total donations to over \$12,000 and she will keep the project going as long as there is interest. Susan is now looking for sponsors for the symposium and history conference. As we continue to celebrate our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary and other projects, Susan is asking that if any Trustees have any contacts who could become support donors to these conferences to contact her directly. Susan created an MHS Supporting Montana's Economy impact statement sheet. (See attached documentation.)

### **Membership – Rebecca Baumann**

Rebecca noted that Membership steadily continues to grow with more members renewing at a higher level and donating more to MHS projects.

### **MHS PR/Media Manager – Tom Cook**

Tom noted that one-third of our press coverage is going outside of Montana. He talked about various ways to cover stories & events and how this oftentimes leads to a new, incredible, and unique story about Montana history, which he writes and shares with the public. Our stories are going across the country. He continues to garner major front page coverage state-wide regarding activities at MHS; the Trustees thanked him for continuing to always “get the word out” about what MHS is doing.

### **Legislative Update – Denise King**

HB 416 passed out of subcommittee with a 15 page amendment and will be back on the floor soon. First trigger is – \$2.152 billion due by June; the thought is that will easily be met.

## **PROGRAM MANAGERS’ REPORTS:**

### **MUSEUM PROGRAM – Motion Action -- Jennifer Bottomly-O’looney**

Jennifer Bottomly-O’looney presented the updated Outgoing Loan Policy for Montana’s Museum of the Montana Historical Society. She also discussed the current MHS Library Deaccession Policy.

She also asked to ratify the loan of 15 Bob Scriver bronzes and one photo portrait of Bob Scriver by Ken Whitmire, to River & Plains Society in Fort Benton. (See attached documentation.)

**Motion made by Kent Kleinkopf and seconded by George Dennison. Motion passed with no dissent.** The request was signed by Chairperson Shors and Director Bruce Whittenberg.

Jennifer passed out invitations to the upcoming exhibit. Jennifer and Rowena present for showing of a glimpse of what we will see in the upcoming *The Chinese in Montana 1862 – 1943* exhibit, opening May 14<sup>th</sup>. A Chinese businessman re-purposed a merchant document into his address book. Also a hand-carved Shoushan stone plum blossom spring flower Chinese brush holder, circa. 1890.

### **RESEARCH CENTER – Motion Action -- Deaccession Request – Molly Kruckenberg**

Robert Gebhardt was promoted to Library Manager. Jeff Malcomson is the new Photographic Archivist.

The Research Center recently received a grant from National Film Preservation for approximately \$11,000 to support the conservation and reformatting of two Montana Department of Transportation films from 1952 – Montana in the Sky & 1968 – Montana in the Aircraft. This is the sixth grant received from NFP.

Molly also noted that they are working to establish one communal digitized newspaper portal. The Research Center is working with the Montana Newspaper Association to collect newspapers in electronic format for this portal.

Molly reviewed the Deaccession Policy (approved by Board of Trustees July 20, 2006) (see attached documentation) and the purpose for the policy.

The March 2015, Deaccession list was presented. **George Dennison moved approval; Kent Kleinkopf seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.** (The handout will be made a permanent part of the record).

Molly then presented the actual document signed by Sidney Edgerton from the 1865 Legislative Session creating the Montana Historical Society. She noted how they authenticated the document.

#### **STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE – Mark Baumler**

Mark noted that they respond to over 1,800 inquiries a year. He talked about the proactive Montana's African American Heritage Properties, as well as properties on the state campus.

John Boughton talked about an ongoing inventory of the Montana State Capitol Campus (attached presentation). He noted that SHPO and the Department of Administration are jointly sharing the costs of the inventory and the subsequent preparation of a National Register nomination for the campus.

#### **OUTREACH AND INTERPRETATION – Kirby Lambert**

Kirby reiterated information concerning the symposium Richest Hills and history conference. There will be teachers from 36 states participating in the Richest Hills program.

#### **PUBLICATIONS –Molly Holz**

Molly announced that the spring 2014 magazine has been mailed. *People before the Park: The Kootenai & Blackfeet Before Glacier National Park* book will go to the printer next week. Recently, the Calamity Jane the Life & Legends article won the Western Rendezvous Spirit Award this year in Tennessee. The 2015 MHS Membership calendar called *Pets & Past Times* will feature pets in Montana.

#### **Central Services – Denise King**

Denise reported on the MHS Financial Schedules for FY 2015 – 3/31/15 and noted a few minor adjustments. She talked about revenue stream, indirect cost, investments, and grants information. She noted the revenue and distribution of the CMR book. We are 75% through our fiscal year and right on target with our budget. Denise and staff were thanked for another fantastic audit.

Bruce & Denise interjected that the Trustees have been invited to go before the Legislature at 1 p.m. to be introduced.

## **Committee Reports:**

### **Government Relations - Bob Brown**

Bob was thanked for all his assistance to the Board throughout the 64<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session.

### **Heritage Keeper Award Nominations (Motions) – Shirley Groff & Janene Caywood**

The group discussed nominations and decided to limit it to two nominations, one from the east and one from the west side of the state. George Dennison made the motion that Henry Armstrong receive the Heritage Keepers Award from the Eastern side of Montana. Ed Jasmin seconded the vote; it passed with no dissent. A second motion was made by George Dennison that Phyllis Smith receive the Heritage Keepers Award from the Western side of Montana. Kent Kleinkopf seconded the vote; it passed with no dissent. It was recommended that self-nominations should be eliminated from the nomination process. There was some discussion about updating the nomination process to discourage self-nomination. No formal changes at this time.

### **Executive Committee Report – Tom Nygard**

No formal report at this time as information was covered in various aspects of this meeting.

### **MHS Nominating Committee –**

Jude Sheppard, Steve Lozar, and Jim Court will be the nominating committee for the three officer positions and executive committee 2015/2016 positions.

### **The Value of History - Bruce Whittenberg (Motion) –**

Bruce handed out information on a Value of History Statement crafted by state historical societies and museums from around the country which are endorsing the concept. This statement endorses seven essential educational values related to history education, and Bruce asked the Board to endorse this policy. Ed Jasmin made the motion, which was seconded by Tom Nygard; motion passed.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS –**

Crystal brought forth the discussion of the annual Staff Appreciation function. Various ideas and aspects were discussed. Bruce brought up the idea of holding the next Trustees meeting in conjunction with Bannack Days and hold the meeting in Dillon, possibly at the college.

Approximately 80 people will attend a staff event. Because last year's event was considerably more expensive than usual, Bruce suggested looking at some less expensive and less intense (on

the Trustees) options. He suggested hosting an employee function at the Brewers' baseball park as one option. They have a packaged deal in the picnic area that includes a meal and admittance into that evening's home game. Other options were discussed, but the group felt Bruce's suggestion was the best for a staff summer function this year. Hold the Board meeting in Dillon with a bus trip to Bannack on July 23<sup>rd</sup> and the following night would be the Staff Appreciation function at the Brewers' ball park. Crystal suggested an email vote on this soon; once details can be ascertained. Or, hold the Board meeting in Helena and cater a staff function at the Pioneer's cabin.

#### **NEW BUSINESS - (Motion)**

Dr. Van Kirke Nelson, a noteworthy historian, recently passed away, and Tom Nygard asked the Trustees to go on record acknowledging his contribution to Montana history. Tom Nygard made the motion, Ed Jasmin seconded, and the motion passed.

Crystal made a suggestion that the Trustees send a letter of appreciation to those Legislators and the Governor who have supported the efforts and bills directed toward MHS. Shirley made the motion and then amended it to state a letter of appreciation to be sent to the Governor and Legislative body thanking them for the support. Kent Kleinkopf seconded the motion. There was one no vote. Motion passed. Crystal requested that Bruce & Denise draft the letter.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

#### **NEXT BOARD MEETING – July 23, 2015 - 9:00 a.m. - Executive Committee – 8:00 a.m.**

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

1:50 p.m.

***“The reason that this Society as a whole is going full blast is that we simply can't believe that full support won't be forthcoming.” – K. Ross Toole, 1954***